

# What's New in the MPDC

FEBRUARY 4, 2002

## DRUG INTERDICTIONS ON TRAIN YIELD LARGE QUANTITIES OF COCAINE, HEROIN

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In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on September 11<sup>th</sup>, there were indications that drug trafficking along the eastern seaboard may have been disrupted. Two major drug interdictions this past week on an Amtrak train at Union Station suggest that while drug trafficking may be resuming, police intelligence and enforcement efforts are being stepped up as well. On January 29, members of the MPDC's Major Narcotics Branch and Amtrak Police, acting on information they had developed, boarded a Miami-to-New York train at Union Station. Officers requested and obtained permission to search the luggage of two passengers, finding 60 packets of cocaine (four kilos) with an estimated street value in excess of \$400,000. A 31-year-old man and a 26-year-old woman, both of New Jersey, were arrested and charged with Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine. In a separate incident, again acting on information they had developed, officers boarded the same train, and requested and received permission to search another passenger's luggage. Discovered were seven plastic bags containing white powder believed to be heroin – approximately one kilo with an estimated street value of over \$150,000. The passenger, a 30-year-old man from Caracas, Venezuela, was charged with Possession with Intent to Distribute Heroin. The Major Narcotics Branch's Drug Interdiction Unit works closely with federal and other area police departments to identify and interdict drug supplies passing into and through DC via surface or air transportation. Read the news release on the latest incident at:

*The Major Narcotics Branch also operates the MPDC's Narcotics Strike Force, which focuses on breaking up open-air drug markets and conducting other street-level drug enforcement efforts. To contact the Major Narcotics Branch, call 202-727-4166.*

[mpdc.dc.gov](http://mpdc.dc.gov) (Click on News Room)

## AS PRESIDENT URGES HOMELAND SECURITY VOLUNTEERS, MPDC OFFERS RESERVE CORPS, OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

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In his State of the Union Address this past week, President Bush encouraged Americans to get involved in homeland security by volunteering in their communities. Through its Reserve Corps program, the MPDC offers DC residents with a unique opportunity to assist police with a variety of tasks that contribute to neighborhood safety. In the next few weeks, the MPDC will be unveiling a major restructuring and expansion of its Reserve Corps program, with goal of increasing the number of Reserve officers from about 100 to 600 or more. Whereas the current Reserve program has only two basic groups of officers, the new structure will establish five different classes of Reserve officers, with each class devoting more time, taking on additional responsibilities and requiring additional training. This more flexible structure will open up the Reserve Corps to individuals who want to contribute but may have only a few hours a month to devote. Detailed information about the expanded Reserve Corps will be released shortly; in the meantime, learn about the history and current structure of the Reserve Corps by going to:

*For more information about President Bush's USA Freedom Corps initiative, click on:*

[www.usafreedomcorps.gov](http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov)

[mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/services\\_PRC.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/services_PRC.shtm)

## SPOTLIGHT ON ... THE MOBILE FORCE

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One of the key elements of the MPDC's "Policing for Prevention" strategy is focused law enforcement. While much of this activity is carried out by uniformed and plain-clothes officers in the seven police districts and specialized units, focused law enforcement is also supported by a unit known as Mobile Force. Created approximately two years ago, the Mobile Force works to reduce and prevent crime and violence by utilizing short-term, proactive, high visibility enforcement techniques. These include vehicular saturation patrols, foot patrols, quality-of-life enforcement, safety compliance checks and nuisance abatement. The Mobile Force is staffed primarily by MPDC officers who work in a voluntary, overtime capacity, mostly during the evening tour of duty. The Mobile Force also maintains a three-member Warrant Unit that works the US Marshals Service to locate and apprehend wanted suspects in DC. Learn more about the Mobile Force, its programs and personnel at:

[mpdc.dc.gov/about/units/mobileForce.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/units/mobileForce.shtm)

## HOOPS COMBINE WITH LIFE SKILLS TRAINING DURING UPCOMING YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION EVENT

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The MPDC's Office of Youth Violence Prevention, in conjunction with several other youth crime prevention organizations, will tip off a City-Wide Anti-Violence Event (CWAVE) basketball tournament on February 13. The four-week event will showcase some of the best amateur basketball talent in DC, while convening young people from different neighborhoods for athletics, fellowship, communications and life-skills workshops. The February CWAVE tournament is the second phase of a unique youth violence prevention program that brings together high-risk youth and young adults from targeted neighborhoods throughout the city that have been negatively affected by crime and violence. All participants in the basketball tournament will be required to attend workshops covering life skills, job training and placement, mentoring, counseling and related topics. Get details on CWAVE at:

*Interested in other MPDC youth violence prevention efforts? Contact the Office of Youth Violence Prevention at 202-727-7752.*

[mpdc.dc.gov](http://mpdc.dc.gov) (Click on News Release)

## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

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- ◆ The DC Council's Committees on the Judiciary and on Human Services will hold a joint public hearing on child abuse investigations on Monday, February 4. Rescheduled from January, this hearing will include testimony from representatives of the MPDC, the Child and Family Services Agency and other child abuse treatment and prevention organizations.
- ◆ Chief Ramsey has his regular monthly appearance on WTOP Radio's "Ask the Chief" program on Thursday, February 7, at 10 am. You can submit questions ahead of time at [www.wtop.com/news/ask\\_ramsey.jhtml](http://www.wtop.com/news/ask_ramsey.jhtml)

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*Information, ideas or comments about this service?*

*E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kmorison\\_mpdc@excite.com](mailto:kmorison_mpdc@excite.com).*

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